



Catching Memories and Fish in Cuyahoga Valley National Park



Baseball may be the American pastime, but there are countless other activities that provide participants with hours of amusement, recreation, and enjoyment. For you, one of these activities may be fishing. From American Indians to trawlers, bass masters to grandfathers, fishing has influenced the lives of untold numbers of people in the past. It has been a means of food, livelihood, recreation, and sharing.

We all have childhood memories-some delightful and some nightmarish-of our first fishing experience. Maybe your first fishing story brings memories of a favorite grand-dad or the tale of the one that got away. Fishing allows us to catch a greater appreciation of nature and to each other.

The National Park Service introduced and adopted its recreational fishing program, *A Heritage of Fishing*. The program provides for recreational fishing in national parks while protecting, maintaining, and restoring valuable and sometimes unique fisheries. By fishing in national parks, you become a steward of its mission to leave the area unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

The Basics Before You Get Started

National Park Service lands and waters are considered preserves for wildlife. Thus, CVNP’s philosophy in managing ponds and streams is to maintain the predator-prey relationship rather than to stock fish for recreational fishing. Catch and release fishing is encouraged in all areas of the park to maintain the fish population needed for continued sport fishing.

CVNP has over 70 species of fish. Crappie, bass, and sunfish can be caught in lakes or ponds. Catfish, bullhead, and darters can be caught in the river. Park brochures and a

more detailed list of fish are available at park visitor centers.

Fishing in the Cuyahoga River is permitted. There is a **statewide advisory for mercury** that you eat no more than one meal per week of any sport fish caught in any water body in Ohio.

A fishing license is required in accordance with the laws and regulations of the State of Ohio. Park rangers may check fishing licenses.

General Park & Fishing Regulations

Ice fishing is permitted on Kendall Lake when ice depth reaches 7 inches. Call (216) 524-1497 to check ice depth.

Non-motorized boats are permitted, but must display proper registration.

The possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages is forbidden in the park.

In CVNP ponds/waters, the following are prohibited:

Taking bass from Kendall Lake between March 15 and May 31. Any bass caught in

Kendall Lake in that time period must be immediately returned to the lake unharmed.

Fishing in fresh water in any manner other than by hook and line, with the rod or line being closely attended.

Use of preserved or fresh fish eggs, fish roe, food, fish parts, chemicals, or other foreign substance in water for the purpose of leading or attracting fish intended to be taken. Introducing fish or fish eggs into any federally owned waters.

Commercial fishing.

Also Prohibited

Fishing by the use of drugs, poisons, explosives, or electricity.

Digging for bait.

Possessing or using as bait live or dead minnows or other bait fish, amphibians, non-preserved fish eggs, or fish roe.

The taking of turtles and amphibians (including frogs).

Failing to carefully and immediately return any fish which the fisherman does not wish to keep, to the water from which it was taken.

Pond Locations

Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) has numerous ponds that are open to fishing, as is the Cuyahoga River. Some of the best are:

Coonrad Farm Pond - On Riverview Road approximately ½ mile south of Snowville Road.

Horseshoe Pond - On Major Road about ½ mile west of Riverview Road, south of State Route 303.

Goosefeather Pond - On Scobie Road, off Oak Hill Road, south of Major Road.

Sylvan and Meadow Edge Ponds - Located in the Oak Hill Day Use Area on Oak Hill Road south of Major Road and north of Everett Road. ¾-mile walk from parking area.

Kendall Lake - On Truxell Road between Akron-Cleveland Road and Akron-Peninsula Road.

Indigo Lake - On Riverview Road about 4 miles south of State Route 303.

Armington Pond - On Quick Road between State Road and Akron-Peninsula Road.

Brushwood Lake - On Townsend Road in Furnace Run Park. This area is managed by Metro Parks, Serving Summit County. Consult them concerning fishing rules.

Fishing access for people with physical disabilities is available at Horseshoe Pond and Kendall Lake. Distances from parking lots to ponds vary from less than one hundred yards to ¾ mile.



Map of Fishing Ponds in the Valley

